**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-55.   (Cancelled)

56.   (Previously Presented)  A method for allowing a user to register with an Internet Service Provider ("ISP") to inspire billing of charges that are incurred incident to receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP to a telephone bill, the method comprising:

receiving, from a client device, a request to access services offered by or through the ISP;

in response to the request to access the services offered by or through the ISP, requesting from a user of the client device, to identify a choice of billing for charges that are incurred incident to receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP;

receiving, from the user, the choice of billing for the charges that are incurred incident to receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP;

analyzing the response to determine whether the user has requested telephone billing for the charges that are incurred incident to receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP;

based on analyzing the response, determining that the user has requested telephone billing for the charges that are incurred incident to receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP;

retrieving a telephone number associated with the user;

determining a number of users who have previously selected the telephone number for billing the charges incident to receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP;

accessing a threshold that enables determination of a number of users permitted to bill charges for services to the telephone number;

determining whether the number of users exceeds the threshold;

denying user-requested telephone billing for the charges that are incurred incident to receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP when it is determined that the number of users exceed the threshold; and

enabling user-requested telephone billing for the charges that are incurred incident to receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP when it is determined that the number of users does not exceed the threshold.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56 wherein receiving the request to access services offered by or through the ISP includes receiving a request to access services offered by the ISP.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56 wherein receiving the request to access services offered by or through the ISP includes receiving a request to access services offered through the ISP.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56 further comprising requesting, from the user and in response to the request to access the services offered by or through the ISP, a user identifying data.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein the user identifying data includes a user name, a user address, or a user telephone number.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56 wherein retrieving the telephone number includes retrieving Automatic Number Identification ("ANI") data associated with a user terminal from which the request to access services offered by or through the ISP is received.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61 further comprising requesting, from the user and in response to the request to access the services offered by or through the ISP, a user identifying data.

63.     (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 62 wherein the user identifying data includes a user telephone number.

64.     (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 62 further comprising:
        comparing the user identifying data with the ANI data; and
        using a result of comparison between the user identifying data and the ANI data as a condition precedent to enabling the user-requested telephone billing for the charges that are incurred incident to the receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP.

65.     (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 62 further comprising:
        sending the user identifying data to a third party vendor;
        requesting, from the third party vendor, additional information about the user; and
        receiving, from the third party vendor and in response to the request, the additional information.

66.     (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 65 wherein the additional information includes a telephone number associated with the user.

67.     (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 66 further comprising:
        comparing the telephone number associated with the user with the ANI data; and
        using a result of comparison as a condition precedent to enabling the user-requested telephone billing for the charges that are incurred incident to the receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP.

68.     (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 62 further comprising:
        sending the user identifying data and the ANI data to a third party vendor;
        requesting, from the third party vendor, to perform a comparison between a telephone number associated with the user identifying data and the ANI data;

receiving, from the third party vendor, a result of the comparison; and

using a result of comparison as a condition precedent to enabling the user-requested telephone billing for the charges that are incurred incident to the receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP.

69.     (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 56 wherein determining the number of users who have previously selected the telephone number for billing the charges incurred through the ISP includes determining a number of accounts associated with the telephone number.

70.     (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 56 further comprising:

determining whether the retrieved telephone number is from an acceptable source;

using a result of determination as a condition precedent to enabling the user-requested telephone billing for the charges that are incurred incident to the receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP.

71.     (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 56 further comprising:

accessing format criteria that enable determination of whether the formatting characteristic of the telephone number satisfies the format criteria;

comparing the formatting characteristic of the telephone number against format criteria;

using a comparison of format between the formatting characteristic and the format criteria as a condition precedent to enabling the user-requested telephone billing for the charges that are incurred incident to the receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP; and

enabling the user-requested telephone billing for the charges that are incurred incident to the receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP when the formatting characteristic satisfies the format criteria.

72.    (Previously Presented)  A method for allowing a user to register with an Internet Service Provider ("ISP") to inspire billing of charges that are incurred incident to receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP to a telephone bill, the method comprising:

receiving, from a client device, a request to access services offered by or through the ISP;

in response to the request to access the services offered by or through the ISP, requesting from a user of the client device, to identify a choice of billing for charges that are incurred incident to receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP;

receiving, from the user, the choice of billing for the charges that are incurred incident to receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP;

analyzing the response to determine whether the user has requested telephone billing for the charges that are incurred incident to receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP;

based on analyzing the response, determining that the user has requested telephone billing for the charges that are incurred incident to receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP;

retrieving a telephone number associated with the user;

identifying a formatting characteristic of the telephone number;

accessing format criteria that enable determination of whether the formatting characteristic of the telephone number satisfies the format criteria;

comparing the formatting characteristic of the telephone number against format criteria;

resolving information based on results of the comparison between the formatting characteristic and the format criteria;

using the information resolved based on results of the comparison between the formatting characteristic and the format criteria as a condition precedent to enabling the user-requested telephone billing for the charges that are incurred incident to the receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP; and

enabling the user-requested telephone billing for the charges that are incurred incident to the receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP when the formatting characteristic satisfies the format criteria.

73.    (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 72 wherein receiving the request to access services offered by or through the ISP includes receiving a request to access services offered by the ISP.

74.    (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 72 wherein receiving the request to access services offered by or through the ISP includes receiving a request to access services offered through the ISP.

75.    (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 72 further comprising requesting, from the user and in response to the request to access the services offered by or through the ISP, a user identifying data.

76.    (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 75 wherein the user identifying data includes a user name, a user address, or a user telephone number.

77.    (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 72 wherein retrieving the telephone number includes retrieving Automatic Number Identification ("ANI") data associated with a user terminal from which the request to access services offered by or through the ISP is received.

78.    (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 77 further comprising requesting, from the user and in response to the request to access the services offered by or through the ISP, a user identifying data.

79.    (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 78 wherein the user identifying data includes a user telephone number.

80. (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 78 further comprising:

comparing the user identifying data with the ANI data; and

using a result of comparison between the user identifying data and the ANI data as a condition precedent to enabling the user-requested telephone billing for the charges that are incurred incident to the receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP.

81. (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 78 further comprising:

sending the user identifying data to a third party vendor;

requesting, from the third party vendor, additional information about the user; and

receiving, from the third party vendor and in response to the request, the additional information.

82. (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 81 wherein the additional information includes a telephone number associated with the user.

83. (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 82 further comprising:

comparing the telephone number associated with the user with the ANI data; and

using a result of comparison as a condition precedent to enabling the user-requested telephone billing for the charges that are incurred incident to the receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP.

84. (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 78 further comprising:

sending the user identifying data and the ANI data to a third party vendor;

requesting, from the third party vendor, to perform a comparison between a telephone number associated with the user identifying data and the ANI data;

receiving, from the third party vendor, a result of the comparison; and

using a result of comparison as a condition precedent to enabling the user-requested telephone billing for the charges that are incurred incident to the receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP.

85.    (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 72 further comprising:
determining whether the retrieved telephone number is from an acceptable source;
using a result of determination as a condition precedent to enabling the user-requested telephone billing for the charges that are incurred incident to the receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP.

86.    (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 72 further comprising:
determining a number of users who have previously selected the telephone number for billing the charges incident to receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP;
accessing a threshold that enables determination of a number of users permitted to bill charges for services to the telephone number;
determining whether the number of users exceeds the threshold; and
denying user-requested telephone billing for the charges that are incurred incident to receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP when it is determined that the number of users exceed the threshold.

87.    (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 72 further comprising:
determining the formatting characteristic of the telephone number fails to satisfy the format criteria; and
reformatting the retrieved telephone number to include a proper formatting characteristic if the data received can be reformatted to include the proper formatting characteristic.

[[89]] 88.    (Currently Amended)  A system for allowing a user to register with an Internet Service Provider ("ISP") to inspire billing of charges that are incurred

incident to receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP to a telephone bill, the system comprising:

means for receiving, from a client device, a request to access services offered by or through the ISP;

means for requesting from a user of the client device and in response to the request to access the services offered by or through the ISP to identify a choice of billing for charges that are incurred incident to receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP;

means for receiving, from the user, the choice of billing for the charges that are incurred incident to receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP;

means for analyzing the response to determine whether the user has requested telephone billing for the charges that are incurred incident to receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP;

means for determining, based on analyzing the response, that the user has requested telephone billing for the charges that are incurred incident to receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP;

means for retrieving a telephone number associated with the user;

means for determining a number of users who have previously selected the telephone number for billing the charges incident to receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP;

means for accessing a threshold that enables determination of a number of users permitted to bill charges for services to the telephone number;

means for determining whether the number of users exceeds the threshold;

means for denying user-requested telephone billing for the charges that are incurred incident to receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP when it is determined that the number of users exceed the threshold; and

means for enabling user-requested telephone billing for the charges that are incurred incident to receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP when it is determined that the number of users does not exceed the threshold.

[[90]] 89.   (Currently Amended)  A system for allowing a user to register with an Internet Service Provider ("ISP") to inspire billing of charges that are incurred incident to receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP to a telephone bill, the system comprising:

   means for receiving, from a client device, a request to access services offered by or through the ISP;

   means for requesting from a user of the client device and in response to the request to access the services offered by or through the ISP to identify a choice of billing for charges that are incurred incident to receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP;

   means for receiving, from the user, the choice of billing for the charges that are incurred incident to receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP;

   means for analyzing the response to determine whether the user has requested telephone billing for the charges that are incurred incident to receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP;

   means for determining, based on analyzing the response, that the user has requested telephone billing for the charges that are incurred incident to receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP;

   means for retrieving a telephone number associated with the user;

   means for identifying a formatting characteristic of the telephone number;

   means for accessing format criteria that enable determination of whether the formatting characteristic of the telephone number satisfies the format criteria;

   means for comparing the formatting characteristic of the telephone number against format criteria;

   means for resolving information based on results of the comparison between the formatting characteristic and the format criteria;

   means for using the information resolved based on results of the comparison between the formatting characteristic and the format criteria as a condition precedent to enabling the user-requested telephone billing for the charges that are

incurred incident to the receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP; and

means for enabling the user-requested telephone billing for the charges that are incurred incident to the receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP when the formatting characteristic satisfies the format criteria.

[[91]] 90.      (Currently Amended)  The method of claim 56 wherein enabling the user-requested telephone billing includes enabling the user to apply the charges that are incurred incident to receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP to a telephone bill.

[[92]] 91.      (Currently Amended)  The method of claim [[91]] 90 wherein the telephone bill includes a bill associated with a telephone line of the user or the telephone number of the user.

[[93]] 92.      (Currently Amended)  The method of claim [[91]] 90 wherein the telephone bill includes a bill issued by a telephone company providing the user with a telephone line or the telephone number.

[[94]] 93.      (Currently Amended)  The method of claim 58 wherein receiving the request to access services offered though the ISP includes receiving, from the user, a request to purchase goods or services from a retailer and have charges billed to a telephone number account.

[[95]] 94.      (Currently Amended)  The method of claim 72 wherein enabling the user-requested telephone billing includes enabling the user to apply the charges that are incurred incident to receipt of the requested services offered by or through the ISP to a telephone bill.

[[96]] 95.     (Currently Amended)  The method of claim [[95]] 94 wherein the telephone bill includes a bill associated with a telephone line of the user or the telephone number of the user.

[[97]] 96.     (Currently Amended)  The method of claim [[95]] 94 wherein the telephone bill includes a bill issued by a telephone company providing the user with a telephone line or the telephone number.

[[98]] 97.     (Currently Amended)  The method of claim 74 wherein receiving the request to access services offered though the ISP includes receiving, from the user, a request to purchase goods or services from a retailer and have charges billed to a telephone number account.

[[99]] 98.     (Currently Amended)  The method of claim 72 wherein using the information resolved based on the results of the comparison between the formatting characteristic and the format criteria includes using a conclusion that the formatting characteristic satisfies the format criteria.